murder" appearing in the Indian Express dated the 2nd September, 2001 reporting more starvation deaths?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN): (a) to (c) No starvation deaths have been reported by any State Government.

Starvation deaths

1878. SHRI LALITBHAI MEHTA:
SHRIMATI SAVITA SHARDA:

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that 17 million tonnes of Foodgrains are required as buffer stock in the country;

(b) whether it is a fact that starvation deaths occurred in 2000-2001 and before in spite of buffer stocks of Foodgrains;

(c) whether it is a fact that Attorney General admitted in the Supreme Court that the starvation deaths were due to a horrendous state of Affairs; and

(d) Government's reaction to a petition filed in the Supreme Court by Peoples Union for Civil Liberties raising the question of Right to Life under article 21 of the constitution?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN): (a) As on 1.7.2001, 616.70 lakh

tonnes of wheat and rice were available in the central pool as against the minimum buffer stocking norms of 243.00 lakhs tonnes as per the details given below:

	Minimum Buffer Stocking Norms	Stock Position
Rice	100.00	227.50
Wheat	143.00	389.20
TOTAL	243.00	616.70

(b) No starvation death has been reported by any State Government.

(c) There are no starvation deaths.

(d) The Central Government has filed a status report in the Supreme Court in regard to the implementation of various Schemes by the State Governments. The matter is still subjudice.

Help to America to fight against Afghanistan

† 1879. SHRIMATI SAROJ DUBEY: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether America had sought any help or facility from India on the issue of war with Afghanistan;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, whether India, on its own has offered to extend any facility to America in the War?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) to (c) Government has consistently taken a principled stand against terrorism and its sponsors everywhere in the world and supports all international efforts, including in the United Nations, to combat terrorism. Following the terrorist attacks in the United States

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.